

From: Lee
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/8/01 11:50am
Subject: Microsoft Juggernaut

Greetings,

It looks from here like you caved in to Bill Gates and his empire. They are unrepentant and poised to continue with their brand of business as usual....which means that we consumers are hurt yet again. They are thugs. You know full well that they are a predatory entity, a corporation that uses its monopoly like a club to kill any real competition. All legal wrangling aside, Microsoft can't dodge that fact. When they are left to do as they will, they have exclusive right by economic threat to siphon off of society's need for computing power like the parasites they are.

The "playing field" Microsoft so proudly points to as its proving grounds for its product viability is littered with dead technology that, 90 percent of the time, was far superior to the laughable offerings of Bill Gates and crew. The technology died, along with the companies that developed them because of Microsoft's stranglehold on the market, and its tactics of exclusivity deals, threats, and intimidation. Remember how they started out with DOS, a poor imitation of SCO UNIX? They had exclusive software rights to every PC sold by the then-standard, IBM. Clones had to keep some measure of compatibility, so they too contracted with Microsoft. Back in those days, Apple's Mac with windowing, buttons, mouse and slick GUI interface was laughed at as a toy. Unix people were fringe kooks. Did anyone else see that when Windows emerged, it was a bad photocopy of Apple OS and Unix Motif/X-Windows?? They basically stole other ideas and profited from them. Seems I remember that the government did the wink-and-nod bit a few years ago when Apple asserted and proved its claim. Why is the government so fearful of Bill Gates? Does it figure he will be satisfied one day and just stop??

There are a few of us who make the choice in our personal lives to use superior product, such as Linux and Apple, which I use at home. I go to work and hold my nose as I labor all day on a modern Microsoft platform riddled with bugs, inconsistencies, and daily crashes. Why has such a slipshod product been allowed to swallow the market whole? Everyone winks and looks the other way as Gates tightens his grip. There are real, tangible costs to consumers and corporations when they are forced to adopt "the standard", in terms of down time that would not otherwise occur, and inflated monopolistic pricing.

Do the right thing. Go for the throat. They are true evil -- a cancer -- and deserve no quarter.

Otherwise, will we be driving Microsoft cars and buying Microsoft diamonds as they continue to grow? Will they oustrip any government effort to contain them?

Thanks for your time,

Lee Shouse

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